

ER 7083/b

encl
Mr. Chester Bowles
Essex, Connecticut

Dear Chet:

Upon my return from Europe I found your letter of September 10th enclosing the copy of the letter you sent to Chris Herter concerning the Americans still held in prisons by the Chinese Communists.

I understand that one of the first instructions the State Department sent Ambassador Beam in Warsaw was to make sure that the prisoner release item was on the conference agenda and was pursued forcefully in his talks. I am sure you know that I am as anxious as anyone to see that everything possible be done to secure the early release of these men.

With best wishes.

Faithfully yours,

5X6/DCI/ [] Oct

retyped AWD:ekt 4 Oct

orig - addressee

1 - DCI

1 - ER w/basic

1 - FMC

1 - Reading

Allen W. Dulles
Director

3
DOCUMENT NO.
NO.
☐

DATE 18 MAR 81

| SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| UNCLASSIFIED | | CONFIDENTIAL | |
| | | SECRET | |
| CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP | | | |
| TO | NAME AND ADDRESS | INITIALS | DATE |
| 1 | MR. GORDON STEWART | <i>BS</i> | SEP 1958 |
| 2 | Director of Personnel 2611 Curie | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | <i>B+CD</i> | <i>KE</i> | 29 Sept 58 |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | |
| ACTION | | DIRECT REPLY | PREPARE REPLY |
| APPROVAL | | DISPATCH | RECOMMENDATION |
| COMMENT | | FILE | RETURN |
| CONCURRENCE | | INFORMATION | SIGNATURE |
| Remarks: | | | |
| <p>Gordon: The Director has asked if there is anything new he might tell Mr. Bowles about Downey and Fecteau.</p> | | | |
| FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER | | | |
| FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO. | | | DATE |
| | | | 25 Sept 58 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | | SECRET | |

Mr. Chester Bowles
Essex, Connecticut

During the temporary absence of Mr. Dulles,
may I acknowledge your letter of 10 September.

Sincerely,

Harvest

Assistant to the Director

Distr

~~Orig~~ - Addressee

1 - ☐ Hold File w/basic

1 - ER via Reading

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DOCUMENT NO
NO
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DATE: 18 MAR

10-7083

CHESTER BOWLES
ESSEX, CONNECTICUT

September 10, 1958

Dear Allen:

I am enclosing a copy of a note which I have just written to Chris Herter which I hope may induce him to prod our Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs.

Do you remember our conversation in your office last December when I suggested that Communist pressure on Quemoy was inevitable and that it would place us in an impossible dilemma?

I had the feeling then that you agreed but I also understood what you are up against. Let's hope we come through without an explosion.

With my warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Chet
E

Chester Bowles

Mr. Allen Dulles
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D.C.
(transcribed and signed in
Mr. Bowles' absence)
CB:ib

DOCUMENT NO. 5

NO CHANGES IN CL. LS. ☒

☐ DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: U S G

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 18 MAR 81

AUTH: HR 71-2

DATE: 18 MAR 81 REVIEW: 0086321

September 10, 1958

Dear Chris:

I wonder if this is not an opportune time to press for the release of Jack Downey and his three fellow Americans who are still held in Chinese prisons?

I have been particularly interested because I know Jack's mother, and I have tried to be helpful where I could.

Two years ago, as you may know, I persuaded Nehru to press Chou En-lai for their release. Chou En-lai promised to act and then later reneged on his assurances.

Last December when the Peking government gave Mrs. Downey a visa to visit Jack we were all hopeful that they would relent - for public relations reasons, if for no other. But this was a false hope.

In the negotiations in Warsaw I hope that we will make the point at the very outset that the release of Jack and the other prisoners is vitally important as an indication of China's good intentions.

I believe that this is an effective and important point for us to make. I also believe that our government has a responsibility to move vigorously for the release of Jack and his three associates on humanitarian grounds.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Allen Dulles with whom I have discussed this situation on several occasions.

With my warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Chester Bowles

The Honorable Christian A. Herter
Undersecretary of State
The State Department
Washington, D. C.
(transcribed and signed in
Mr. Bowles' absence)
CB:ib

DOCUMENT NO. 6
DATE 10/15/58
AUTH. []
REVIEWED []
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

30 SEP 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer
Office of the Director

SUBJECT: Downey - Fecteau Cases

1. Reference is made to your request for new information which the Director might relate to Mr. Chester Bowles concerning the Fecteau - Downey cases.

2. The Director may wish to advise Mr. Bowles that the Department of State advised our Warsaw Ambassador Beam that the prisoner release should be on the Conference agenda and that he should be forceful in his talks on this issue. [REDACTED]

3. By way of additional information, we have learned that the prisoner issue was raised by Ambassador Beam at the first meeting. The Chinese Communist representative pushed this issue aside and it has not been discussed again since that time.

[REDACTED]
Gordon M. Stewart

Director of Personnel

"We do not plan to tell [REDACTED] about this until the talks have progressed further or have been discontinued."

DOCUMENT NO. 7
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CONTROL TO: 2011
NEXT REVIEW DATE: [REDACTED]
AUTH: [REDACTED]
DATE: 18 MAR 81 REVIEWER: 003632

~~SECRET~~